C. Austin Davis

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Academic Positions & Affiliations

Assistant Professor, School of International Service, American University, 2017-present.

Invited Researcher, Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), 2026-present.

Research Affiliate, Yale Research Initiative for Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE), 2022-present.

Academic Lead, Y-RISE & IPA Workforce Development Initiative, 2022-present.

Postdoctoral Associate, MacMillan Center, Yale University, 2017-2020.

Education

PhD Economics, University of Michigan, 2017.

MA Economics, University of Michigan, 2012.

BA Economics with high distinction, Spanish (double major), University of Virginia, 2007.

Fields of Research Interest

Development Economics, Labor Economics.

Refereed Journal Articles

Davis, C. A., López-Peña, P., Mobarak, A. M., Wen, J. (2025). The Economic Drivers of State Violence against Civilians: Evidence from Myanmar. *The Economic Journal*, ueaf098.

Davis, C. A. & Poole, J. (2023). Foreign Influence: The International Transmission of Gender Equality. *The World Economy*, 47, 1478–1494. Note: associated chapter in an edited volume listed below.

Barker, N., Davis, C. A., López-Peña, P., Mitchell, H., Mobarak, A. M., Naquib, K., Reimão, M. E., Shenoy, A., Vernot, C (2023). Migration and Resilience during a Global Crisis. *European Economic Review*, 158.

(Author order randomized) Egger, D., Miguel, E., Warren, S., Shenoy, A., Collins, E., Karlan, D., Parkerson, D., Mobarak, A. M., Fink, G., Udry, C., Walker, M., Haushofer, J., Larrebourne, M., Athey, S., López-Peña, P., Benhachmi, S., Humphreys, M., Lowe, L., Meriggi, N., Wabwire, A., Davis, C. A., Pape, U. J., Graff, T., Voors, M. Nekesa, C., Vernot, C. (2021). Falling Living Standards during the COVID-19 Crisis: Quantitative Evidence from Nine Developing Countries. *Science Advances*, 7(6).

Davis, C. A. & Poole, J. (2020). Can Multinational Firms Promote Gender Equality? The Role of Labour Mobility. *Transnational Corporations*, 27(3).

Peer-reviewed Book Chapters

Davis, C. A. & Poole, J. "Foreign Influence: The International Transmission of Gender Equality.," Chapter 7, in *Closing Gender Gaps in the Southern Cone: An Untapped Potential for Growth*, eds Verónica Frisancho & Virginia Queijo, Inter-American Development Bank, 2022.

Mobarak, A. M. & Davis, C. A. "A Research Agenda Built for Scale," Chapter 12, in *The Scale-up Effect in Early Childhood and Public Policy: Why interventions lose impact at scale and what we can do about it*, eds John List, Dana Suskind & Lauren Supplee, Routledge, 2021.

Selected and Invited Publications

Davis, C. A., López-Peña, P., Mobarak, A. M., Wen, J. (2024). Refugees are Hosted in Highly Vulnerable Communities. *AEA Papers & Proceedings*, 114.

Davis, C. A., Hsu, E., & VanVuren, M. (2023). "Self Employment, Micro-Entrepreneurship, and Development." *Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) Pathfinding Paper.*

Davis, C. A. & Mobarak, A. M. (2020). The challenges of scaling effective interventions: A path forward for research and policy. *World Development*, 127.

Mobarak, A. M. & Davis, C. A. "The Nobel Winners in Economics Are On the Right Track." *Foreign Policy.* 9 December 2019.

Working Papers

Davis, C. A., Erbabian, M., Khanna, G., Lay, M. (2026). Love in the time of Zika: the Effects of Fertility on Labor Market Outcomes.

Davis, C. A. (2026). Rising Wages Drive Green Technology Adoption in Agriculture.

López-Peña, P., Davis, C. A., Mobarak, A. M., & Raihan, S. (2020). Prevalence of COVID-19 Symptoms, Risk Factors, and Health Behaviors in Host and Refugee Communities in Cox's Bazar: a Representative Panel Study.

López-Peña, Davis C. A., Mobarak, A. M. (2020). Prevalence and Correlates of Depression among Rohingya Refugees and Bangladeshis Living in Cox's Bazar: a Representative, Cross-sectional Survey.

Presentations

2026: Washington Area Development Economics Symposium, University of Michigan (Development Day), International Food Policy Research Institute (AMD Seminar), Inter-American Development Bank (Forced Displacement Working Group), Research Institute for Development, Growth, and Economics Forum (WELAC Workshop).

2024: University of Michigan (Development Day), Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE) Annual Meeting, American University (SIS PhD Colloquium).

2023: Loyola Marymount University, UC Irvine, Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE) Workforce Development Initiative (WDI) Workshop, American University (Department of Economics Seminar).

2022: Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE) Annual Meeting, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Development (EPSD) Annual Meeting, American University Global Economy & Development Conference.

2021: Midwest Economic Development Conference.

2020: Inter-American Development Bank, UN Conference on Trade and Development, Forced Displacement Research & Data to Support COVID-19 Response (IPA / World Bank JDC / International Rescue Committee), American University (Global Economy & Development Seminar).

2019: CEGA / World Bank Annual Conference on Measuring Development, Washington Area Labor Economics Symposium, WFP-World Bank Technical Advisory Group, Mount Holyoke College (Data

Related Explorations in Applied Microeconomics), Yale Program on Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Humanitarian Responses, IPA / IGC / BIGD (Refugee Symposium).

2018: IGC Bangladesh, IFPRI (Financial Inclusion and Resilience Roundtable), AESS Annual Meeting, Yale Conservative Party (Sir Thomas Moore Lecture).

2017: American University, Yale University (Agriculture and Development Conference), WEAI Annual Conference, PacDev (UC Riverside), Yale University (Development Workshop), American Evaluation Association Annual Meeting.

2016: Michigan State (Development Day), Texas A&M (Applied Microeconomics Seminar), Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference (MIT, poster), University of Michigan (Labor Lunch), University of Michigan (Economic Development Seminar), University of Michigan (History, Health, Development, and Demography Seminar).

2015: University of Michigan (Development Day, poster), SEA Annual Meeting, University of Michigan (Economic Development Seminar), University of Michigan (Energy & Environmental Economics)

2014: Inter-American Development Bank, University of Michigan (History, Health, Development, and Demography Seminar).

Honors, Awards, & Fellowships

Dean's Research Award, 2025 ($5,000).

J-PAL Jobs and Opportunity Initiative, with Pursey Heugens, Mona Mensmann, SM Musa, & Katrin Smolka, 2023 ($58,000).

Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE) Research Fellowship, 2020 ($109,000).

Inter-American Development Bank, with Jennifer Poole, 2020 ($18,000).

IPA Competitive Fund for Peace & Recovery, with Paula López-Peña and A. Mushfiq Mobarak, 2019 ($306,000).

MasterCard Center for Inclusive Growth, with A. Mushfiq Mobarak, 2018 ($70,000).

IPA Competitive Fund for Peace & Recovery, with A. Mushfiq Mobarak, 2017 ($149,000).

MITRE Haber Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2016.

MITRE Research Award, University of Michigan, 2015.

Rackham Graduate Student Research Award, University of Michigan, 2015.

Summer Dissertation Fellow, Inter-American Development Bank, 2014.

Teaching Citation, University of Michigan, 2013.

Summer Research Apprenticeship, University of Michigan, 2011, 2012.

Distinguished Majors Program in Economics, University of Virginia, 2006–2007.

Echols Scholar, University of Virginia, 2003–2007.

Professional Service

Referee for Econometrica, Journal of Development Economics, World Development, PLOS ONE, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Human Resources, Nature Communications. Book reviewer for Economic History Association. Grant reviewer for the Israel Science Foundation.

University Service

Economics Course Coordinator, SIS, 2025–.

Co-coordinator, Global Economy and Development Research Cluster, 2025–2026.

Coordinator, Global Economy and Development Research Cluster, 2021–2023, 2024–2025.

Member, SIS Politics, Governance, and Economics Search Committee, 2023–2024.

Member, SIS Faculty Actions Committee, 2023–2024.

Chair, AU Core Quantitative Literacy Committee (Faculty Senate Subcommittee), 2021–2023.

Member, Department of Economics Search Committee, 2018–2019, 2021–2022.

Member, SIS ID Core Course Committee, 2021.

Member, AU Core Quantitative Literacy Committee (Faculty Senate Subcommittee), 2020–2021.

Teaching

Essentials of Economics and Data Analytics (SIS 601, formerly SIS 696), American University, 2024–.

International Affairs Statistics & Methods (SIS 600), American University, 2019, 2021–.

Economic Development (SIS 731), American University, 2018, 2022.

Advanced International Studies Research: Statistical Program Evaluation (SISU 306), American University, 2019.

Program Evaluation and the Complexities of Scale, Short Course for Inter-American Development Bank, 2021.

Program Evaluation, TA for IZA / DFID Short Course, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2019.

Economic Development in Latin America and Beyond, Yale University, 2018.

Program Evaluation, TA for IZA / DFID Short Course, Nairobi, Kenya, 2013.

Statistical Analysis of Survey Data, TA for African Social Research Initiative Short Course, University of Ghana, 2013.

Principles of Microeconomics, Head TA / TA, University of Michigan, 2012–2014.

Principles of Macroeconomics, TA, University of Michigan, 2011–2012.

SAS Basics, Technical Instructor, Analysis Group, 2009–2010.

Advising

PhD Committee Member, Jheelum Sarkar (econ), 2025–.

PhD Committee Member, Reva Resstack (econ), 2025–.

PhD Committee Member, Ariana Schmidt (SIS), 2024–.

PhD Committee Member, Aroob Memon (econ), 2023–.

PhD Committee Member, Aya Aboulhosn (econ), 2023–2026.

PhD Committee Member, Muhammad Malik (econ), 2019–2022.

PhD Committee Member, Ameesh Upadhyay (econ), 2019–2022.

Olson Scholars Mentor, Megan Joksimovic, 2021–2022.

IER Program Mentor, Devin Abbott, 2020–2021.

Employment

Research Assistant for Martha Bailey, University of Michigan, 2013.

Graduate Student Research Assistant for Veronica Berrocal, University of Michigan, 2012.

Senior Analyst, Analysis Group, 2007–2010.

Memberships, Languages, Proficiencies, & Citizenship

Member of the American Economics Association.

English (native), Spanish (conversational), Portuguese (basic).

Stata, R, Excel, LaTeX, GIS, MATLAB, SAS.

US citizen, Mexican citizen.